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THE NATIONAL LOTTERY COMMUNITY FUND Young Start Scotland Awards April 2025

Number of Awards: 40 Total amount awarded: £3,518,157

Organisation	Local Authority	Award	Project summary
Fersands & Fountain SCIO	Aberdeen City	£99,395	This group will develop their youth provision from their premises in Woodside, Aberdeen. Delivering five sessions weekly, holiday programmes and a summer camp with a host of activities for young people aged 12-21 years.
Countryside Learning Scotland	Angus	£90,000	This project will deliver a youth-led programme of activities for young people across the rural Cairngorms region, encompassing three local authority areas: Angus, Highland and Perth & Kinross. The project will help to bridge the gap for younger people living in rural areas to create sustainable opportunities and career pathways within the rural job sector.
DD8 Music	Angus	£97,911	This group will run an evolving program that offers a tiered music education designed to develop young musicians at all levels. The program aims to provide meaningful opportunities for participants to enhance their musical skills, gain practical experience in recording and performance, and build community connections for future employment or entrepreneurial ventures.
Edinburgh Tool Library	City of Edinburgh	£39,796	This group will use the funding to support young people facing barriers to employment in gaining new skills and building networks in industries such as woodworking, carpentry, and furniture-making. The project will also provide a pathways to further training, volunteering , and/or employment.
Family Service Unit Scotland	City of Edinburgh		This group will use funding over 3 years to continue delivery of a youth-led, peer mentoring project in Pilton and Muirhouse. Young people aged 8-12 years will benefit from weekly group sessions and 1:1 activity matched with mentors aged 16-18 years who have the same interests.
Royal National Institute of Blind People	City of Edinburgh		The group will use the funding to continue to develop their Haggeye project for young people with sight loss. With a focus on enabling young people to meet and socialise and develop independent living skills.
Scottish Athletics	City of Edinburgh	£60,310	This project will increase engagement and raise awareness of different issues impacting young people in sports and highlight the positive impact of sports and exercise. Activities will focus on youth-led creative collaborations, where young people can learn to produce their own digital content whilst working alongside an industry expert. This three-year programme will engage 315 young people and 47 volunteers across the duration of the project.

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The Children's Parliament	City of Edinburgh	£87,466	This group will use funding to employ a Project Officer to support Members of Children's Parliament (MCPs) to become Child Human Rights Defenders, creating their own advocacy plans to lead change in their communities and nationally. Project activities are aimed at children and young people aged 8-14 years. Participants will collaborate on the co-design and development of a child-led agenda: prioritising what they want to change and how, in order to influence policy at local and national levels and engage in decision-making processes.
The Salvesen Mindroom Centre (SMC)	City of Edinburgh	£96,279	This project will develop and deliver a new rights and participation programme for neurodivergent young people aged 8-24 years living across Scotland. Utilising a co-production model, the programme will produce youth-led awareness campaigns and neuro-affirming resources by and for neurodiverse young people. It will also support neurodivergent young people to build self-confidence, gain new skills, and develop strong peer networks within their communities.
Venture Scotland	City of Edinburgh	£99,998	The group will use the funding to develop a peer led mentor project supporting young people facing challenging circumstances including substance misuse, mental health issues, trauma and homelessness, as they participate in the organisation's young ambassador's programme of outdoor based personal development programmes.
Better Lives Partnership	Dumfries and Galloway	£100,000	This group will run twelve weekly sessions with neurodiverse pupils in schools, and introduce them to their available courses so that when they transition to one of the group's three activity hubs across Dumfries & Galloway they are familiar with the site, the staff and peer mentors. A further twelve weekly sessions on site will help young people transition to either the core Bridge 2 Employment or Community skills programmes before committing to these more intensive courses. The project will work with approximately 180 16-25 year olds over two years.
The Kings Trust	Dundee City	£100,000	This 3-year project from the Kings Trust, through its place-based strategy, plans to support approximately 180 young people aged 16 to 24 years in Dundee by developing their skills, confidence, and resilience through an employability project named Foundations for Employment.
Cumnock Arts Makes People Smile	East Ayrshire	£99,997	This two year grant will fund two newly recruited Youth Arts Coordinators to lead an inclusive, arts- based programme designed to nurture and empower young people from Cumnock and the Doon Valley through involvement in the arts. The project will benefit 200 young people and involve 45 volunteers in its delivery.
Sticky Fingers Club SCIO	East Ayrshire	£100,000	This three year grant will be used to deliver free and inclusive activity sessions for children and young people, aged four-14 years, from Auchinleck and surrounding towns and villages. The project will provide opportunities in creative arts, sports, STEM and other recreational activities.

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Mellow Parenting Limited	Falkirk	£94,149	The group will use the funding to deliver their existing parenting skills programme aimed at young people who have encountered adverse childhood experiences. The activity will benefit young people aged 12-20 years who live across the Forth Valley area. The project will promote ideas such as mutual respect, positive relationships, and coping strategies using a variety of participatory methods.
Under The Trees Ltd	Falkirk	£98,681	The project will use the funding to enhance wellbeing and increase self-esteem by connecting young people with nature. Young people aged 8-24 years will take part in a variety of inclusive and diverse opportunities tailored to meet the needs of young people from a range of backgrounds, including two new programmes targeted at girls/young women, and young people with additional support needs.
Forgan Arts Centre SCIO	Fife	£92,516	This group will use funding to continue delivering Alternative (art) School, a learning and training programme designed by young people living rurally in Fife. This project is a person-centred programme designed by young people aged 12-18 years and delivered by artists at Forgan Arts Centre. It responds to the distinct challenges young people living rurally face and how these intersect with disability and neurodivergence, child trauma, being care experienced, and mental health and wellbeing.
Stellar Quines	Fife	£70,211	This group will use the funding to provide a programme of artistic, personal and social development for young women and non-binary young people in socio-economically marginalised areas of Fife. The program will empower young people, through theatre, to develop confidence, agency and connection.
Youth 1st SCIO	Fife	£100,000	This group will use funding to continue their work improving the physical, mental, and emotional well- being of children and young people in Fife aged 8 to 20 years. It is expected that 5,500 young people and 30 volunteers will take part over the 3-year funding period.
Youth Auchmuty Project (YAP)	Fife	£100,000	This group will use the funding to continue to run a youth club/café and youth steering group for young people aged 10-25 years of age in the Auchmuty area of Glenrothes. This twoyear project will continue to provide a safe, supported environment for young people to gain new skills, take on new responsibilities and improve their mental health and confidence.
Beatroute Arts	Glasgow City	£99,474	This group will use the funding to continue delivering their creative youth programme from their Centre in Balornock, Glasgow. The project will benefit 581 people and 30 volunteers over three years.
Fuse Youth Cafe Glasgow	Glasgow City	£93,707	The group will use the funding to promote health and wellbeing within their youth sessions in Shettleston, Glasgow. This will involve the development of activities, utilising their podcast, encouraging peer support and recognising young people's attainment.

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Govan Youth Information Project	Glasgow City		This group will use the funding to launch a Youth podcast 'a forum for local young people to voice their insights and tackle stigma on key issues. The project will involve young people aged 10-18 years and allows participants to build new skills and improve their wellbeing.
GWSSB	Glasgow City	£75,314	This group will use the funding to deliver a skills-based programme for vision-impaired young people in Glasgow. The programme will provide young people with essential life skills enabling them to overcome barriers and develop the knowledge and confidence to navigate and participate in society.
Cantraybridge	Highland	£69,854	This group will use the funding to support the development of their onsite, public café at their specialist further education centre for young adults with additional support needs. Young people will work in the café gaining experience in a supported, commercial environment which will give them the confidence to become valued members of the Highland workforce.
Room 13 International	Highland	£33,271	This group will use the funding to deliver a programme of creative activity for young people aged 8-25 years at their visual arts studio, in Caol, Fort William. Over eighteen months, participants will be supported to realise their creative ambitions, and build connections with each other and the wider community. The project will work with 360 young people and involve 10 volunteers.
The Place Youth Centre	Highland	£99,999	This group will use the funding to support the delivery of activities at their two youth spaces in Alness where young people are empowered to take ownership of the club, developing and delivering their own projects and activities with the support of staff.
Greenock Arts Guild Limited	Inverclyde	£73,312	The organisation will use this three-years of funding to enable them to create an original piece of work , going through the process beginning to end and allowing the young people to utilise their skills and talents .There will be opportunities for young people to get involved in all sorts of tasks, such as performances, direction, marketing, lighting, sound, costuming and story boarding.
The Anchor SCIO	Inverclyde	£100,000	The organisation will use this three-year funding to employ a female Project Practitioner to drive forward their female-led services including evidence-based group work, research-driven safe plans, and trauma-informed supporting relationships.
Speyside Youth Ltd	Moray	£67,000	This group will continue to provide youth-led term-time café sessions for young people aged 10-14 years living in Dufftown and nearby villages. The young people take ownership of designing each six-week block of activities and in doing so learn organisational and social skills as they plan and/or help to deliver the varied range of sessions. The young people are supported by an elected youth committee who will manage this process and work to a set budget.
Arran Youth Foundations	North Ayrshire	£99,646	The foundation will use the funding to deliver youth work services to more young people on Arran than ever before. Through the course of the grant young people on Arran will be better supported and better able to flourish, with improved physical, mental and emotional wellbeing. The grant will benefit 340 young people over three years, involving 12 volunteers.

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African Lanarkshire For Mental Health	North Lanarkshire	£99,352	This group will use the funding to continue its youth wellbeing programme for young people aged between 12 and 24 years. The group primarily works with people of African heritage and exists to raise awareness of mental health, and to tackle the stigma around mental ill health that exists within African communities.
Getting Better Together Ltd	North Lanarkshire	£98,100	The group will use the funding to continue to support local young people through a youth-led community radio project. Young people will develop personal and professional skills through access to a broad range of learning, development, social, and volunteering opportunities. This three-year project will work with approximately 200 young people and 30 volunteers from across the wider Shotts and Fortissat area.
Creative Catalyst Scotland CIC	Perth and Kinross	£94,455	This group will use funding to continue delivering a holistic creative wellbeing programme which works with young people (aged 16-24 years) not in education, employment and training, supporting their social and emotional needs as well as helping them grow their creative skills and linking them to the creative sector in Perth and Kinross.
Ochil Tower School	Perth and Kinross	£90,000	The group will use funding to deliver their Life Skills Transition service, which supports young people with complex needs aged 18-21 years to transition out of a residential school setting. The project will work with young people to better understand what life skills they want and then work with external partners to give them real world experiences in work, further education, training and volunteering.
Perth And Kinross Association of Voluntary Service Limited	Perth and Kinross	£92,774	This group will use funding to address gaps in mental health and wellbeing support for people aged 16-24 years. Methods of delivery include group work, one-to-one support and intergenerational work. It is expected that 130 young people and 30 volunteers will take part over the three year funding period.
Loud 'N' Proud	Renfrewshire	£94,600	The group will deliver a community based performance and event management training programme for young people from the Renfrewshire area. The project will work with 60 young people over three years and engage 45 volunteers.
Borders Additional Needs Group SCIO	Scottish Borders	£93,576	This three year grant will provide funding for a youth group for people with additional support needs, aged 11-15 years, one evening per week. The group will use neurodivergent-affirming practices, along with the Youth Skills framework, to provide opportunities in creative arts, sports, and other recreational activities.
Active Stirling Limited	Stirling	£99,583	The group will use the funding to continue to provide their wellbeing and employability programme, which uses sport and physical activity to provide inactive young people in the Stirling local authority area with access to a range of sports and sports coaching. The programme is designed and delivered by young volunteers who gain accredited coaching qualifications through their participation.

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Isaro Community	West	£98,942	2 This project will offer culturally sensitive youth work and development opportunities for 180 children
Initiative	Dunbartonshire		young people and 30 volunteers from Roma, Syrian, Afghan, Asian, African and Ukrainian
			communities from West Dunbartonshire and nearby areas of Glasgow.